



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA  
94102-3688  
Tel 415-865-4200  
TDD 415-865-4272  
Fax 415-865-4205  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)

## Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Funding Requests

### *Sacramento—New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse*

Imperial—New El Centro Family Courthouse  
Lake—New Lakeport Courthouse  
Monterey—New South Monterey County Courthouse  
Riverside—New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse  
Shasta—New Redding Courthouse  
Sonoma—New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse  
Sutter—New Yuba City Courthouse

In April 2008, the Judicial Council updated its Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan that includes 152 new-construction, major renovation, and expansion projects estimated to cost \$9.3 billion (January 2008 dollars). The Initial funding request for these eight referenced projects was \$88.2 million for the 2009–2010 Fiscal Year, which would be funded by the Immediate and Critical Needs Account of the State Court Facilities Fund in proposed court revenue bond legislation Senate Bill 1407 (Perata). Their total project costs are estimated to be \$1.4 billion. If approved, these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed projects for trial courts across California.

### New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse

A new Sacramento Criminal Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$43.1 million for FY 2009–2010. The new facility will house 35 courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 396,609 gross square feet is \$542.9 million (escalated to construction mid-point in Spring 2013). This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

### Lack of Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The proposed project will improve court operational efficiency, access to justice, and overall public service through the following immediately-needed functional and operational improvements: increased capacity for criminal court proceedings, relocation of 26 unsafe, substandard, and overcrowded criminal courtrooms to the new courthouse out of the 44 existing courtrooms in the Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse, and consolidation of all civil functions located in downtown Sacramento into the existing Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse.

In addition to almost consolidating all criminal operations in the entire county, this project will provide consolidation of downtown functions (except for the Hall of Justice courtrooms)—including various court administrative functions, court reporters, legal research staff, and the settlement conference and law and motion functions from leased facilities—into either this new courthouse or into the existing Gordon D. Schaber Courthouse. Moving most of the criminal calendars out of the Schaber facility and into the new courthouse will allow the court to maintain criminal calendars in the Schaber Courthouse in space designed to safely support criminal proceedings, as well as free space in the Schaber facility for consolidation of noncriminal calendars. The superior court will then be reduced from seven to three court facilities within downtown Sacramento, allowing termination of four existing leases and the relocation of technology support from a county office building.

This project will greatly improve access to justice through the consolidation of court calendars and administrative functions, creating operational efficiencies and on-going savings through the elimination of annual lease costs.



Overcrowded Group Holding Cell in Schaber Courthouse, Sacramento

### Long-term Funding Needs

The California legislature is considering authorizing a revenue bond to pay for the state's most urgently needed court projects. This legislation proposes increasing criminal penalties and other filing fees to be contributed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund for the sole purpose of funding court construction projects.

### More Information

A project feasibility report for the New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse, dated July 1, 2008, was prepared by AOC staff. This report documents the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing Gordon D. Schaber court facility in Sacramento County, explores options for how best to meet the needs of the court and of the public, and estimates the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-sacramento.pdf>

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at [OCCM@jud.ca.gov](mailto:OCCM@jud.ca.gov).